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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Asociación de Antiguas Alumnas del Colegio Madres Irlandesas (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: (a) promote women's rights and independence, with a special focus on achieving universal primary education; (b) eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure the same rights for men and women; (c) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (d) promote freedom of religion and belief and the interfaith dialogue; and (e) ensure environmental sustainability. Our main course of action is the creation and support of schools and high schools, both in developed and developing countries, in which children can study without any discrimination, following the example of our founder Mary Ward. Moreover, we are deeply engaged with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and especially with the advancement of gender equality. Our motto is "freedom, justice, sincerity and happiness".

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Sessions held at United Nations Headquarters, New York: (a) the Beijing + 10 Conference: forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Association attended and lobbied for the best implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with a special focus on Spain, South America and Morocco; (b) the Commission on the Status of Women (fiftieth session). Representatives of the Association attended and participated in the organization of parallel non-governmental organization meetings. In addition, the Association actively took part in the drafting of the oral statement of the Latin American caucus; (c) the Commission on the Status of Women (fifty-first session). Representatives of the Association attended and participated in the organization of parallel NGO meetings; and (d) the Commission on the Status of Women (fifty-second session). Representatives of the Association attended and lobbied for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Our Association has organized several workshops about the role of the United Nations and, in particular, about the aims and purposes of the Economic and Social Council. These workshops took place in Bilbao (Spain), Madrid, Sevilla (Spain), Asilah (Morocco) and Guayaquil (Ecuador) during the period 2006-2008.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: the Association contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following three geographical regions: Southern Europe, North Africa and South America.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Target 2: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. **Actions**: (a) 1,200 women were trained to develop their own businesses; and (b) 1,350 microcredits were granted to poor people to develop their employment. **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. Target 1**: Ensure that, by 2015,

children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. **Actions**: (a) 500 school material packs delivered; (b) 1,000 scholarships granted; (c) 60 teachers trained; and (d) 10,000 children registered in our nine schools. **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Target 1**: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. **Actions**: (a) 1,000 scholarships granted to rural and poor girls to enable them to stay in school; (b) specific non-discrimination subjects taught at our schools; (c) 50 instances of legal advice given to women suffering from gender violence; and (d) 1,200 women received literacy training in rural areas. **Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. Target 1**: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. **Actions**: Medical expenses (e.g., medicines, surgery) paid for 750 poor children. **Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Target 1**: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. **Actions**: Medical expenses paid for 250 poor pregnant women. **Target 2**: Achieve universal access to reproductive health. **Actions**: 20 workshops and conferences on reproductive health organized.

Activities in support of global principles: Our Association has printed 3,500 flyers containing relevant information on the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, since 2006 we have organized, in cooperation with the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a "Focus on spirituality", in which the Goals are analysed from the point of view of interfaith dialogue.

2. Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction and main activities

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries is committed to promoting exchanges and cooperation with other countries in the fields of trade, economy, education, social development, sustainable development, youth, sister cities, science and technology, and culture. Its aims are in conformity with the United Nations framework and the Millennium Development Goals.

New organization affiliations: (a) Iran Branch Association of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2008); (b) China-South Africa Friendship Committee of the Association between China and Africa (2008); China-Central Asia Friendship Association (2007); (c) Oman Branch Association of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2007); (d) becoming an associate member of the Latin American Organization of Intermediate Government (2006); (e) China-Latin American and Caribbean Area Friendship Association (2005); (f) El Salvador-China Friendship Association (2005); (g) Guatemala-China Friendship Association (2005); (h) Haiti-China Friendship Association (2005); and (i) Brunei Darussalam Branch Association of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2005).

Promoting peace and friendship through personnel and cultural exchanges: The Association organized exchange visits for people from all walks of life, including youth, officials, experts, scholars, businessmen and ordinary people. According to incomplete statistics, from 2005 to 2008 the Association received 1,230 delegations

from 89 countries with a total of 14,412 people, sent 519 delegations comprising 6,867 people to over 80 countries on friendship visits and held 325 major activities. For instance, it held the "2008 Paris-Beijing Bicycle Tour of Dreams"; the 2006 Tianjing International Children's Art Festival; the tour exhibition of "The European Union at 50" in Beijing, Shanghai, Changchun and Guangzhou, with support from the delegation of the European Commission to China; the first Conference on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): China People-to-People Friendship Organizations; the second Conference on ASEAN: China People-to-People Friendship Organizations; and the commemorative activities on the sixtieth anniversary of the victory in the anti-fascist world war. These activities largely enhanced mutual understanding and friendship among the people of various countries.

Promoting social development and poverty eradication: From 2005 to 2008, the Association actively raised funds of nearly $1 million from at home and abroad for its various programmes concerning poverty eradication, education, environmental protection and medical assistance, including: (a) training English teachers from poor areas (funded by Citibank, the programme consisted of four sessions, was conducted between 2005 and 2007 and trained 120 English teachers from schools in the poor provinces or autonomous regions of western China, including Guizhou, Guangxi, Yunnan and Sichuan. The Association and Citibank also launched a three-year innovative English-teaching competition for teachers from these areas); (b) donating funds and materials to schools (donating books and magazines written in Japanese, with a total value of $1,800 to college students majoring in Japanese language in the underdeveloped areas in western China); (c) providing financial support to university students in China for further study abroad (selecting and sending university students to Japan for master's degrees through the Panasonic scholarship project); (d) providing scholarships for students with financial difficulties (helping children, especially girls, living in mountainous areas to finish their studies, establishing a fund with Japan's Felissimo International Limited to support students from the disaster-stricken areas in Sichuan and working with Citibank in launching the four-year Geping GreenAid Project); (e) donating funds and materials to disaster-stricken areas in China and other countries and expressing sympathy to victims (after the 12 May earthquake in Sichuan, the Association raised and transferred aid funds with a total value of $518,358; in the heavy ice storm at the beginning of 2008, the Association raised a donation of $51,240; in 2005, the Association donated $20,000 to the areas hit by the Indian Ocean Tsunami); (f) training laid-off women workers to learn useful vocational skills (a training programme funded by United Technologies Corporation, this programme trained 968 women from 2005 to 2006); and (g) organizing medical teams to perform volunteer medical consultation in underdeveloped areas.

Promoting international cooperation and economic development: During the past four years, the Association sponsored no less than 50 national and international symposiums and conferences in the fields of finance, economics, investment, regional development and high technology, which greatly enhanced the exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries. Furthermore, the Association got actively involved in international and regional conferences. Our representatives made remarks to introduce how Chinese NGOs had participated in pushing for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and discussed relevant issues and projects with delegates from all over the world in international conferences. For

example, (a) in 2008 representatives of the Association attended the eighth World Alliance for Citizen Participation World Assembly, introduced the great efforts made by the Chinese Government and NGOs in aiding disaster-stricken areas and victims of the Sichuan earthquake; (b) in 2006, the Association took part in the sixth Asia-Europe People's Forum, held in Helsinki; (c) in 2006, the Association hosted the China-Spain Forum in Hangzhou, China, in order to deepen economic and technological cooperation between China and the European Union, Spain and Latin America; and (d) in 2005, the Association participated in the United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific Region Conference and Executive Board Conference. Moreover, in July 2008, the Association participated in the United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific Region Conference, and its president was elected the founding chief of the Asia-Pacific Area.

II. Participation in the work of the United Nations

From 2005 to 2008, the Association attended the following conferences sponsored by the United Nations and United Nations-related organizations: (a) fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth, sixtieth and sixty-first annual Department of Public Information NGO conferences. Representatives of the Association made remarks, answered relevant questions and published articles in the monograph of the annual conference; (b) "Sustainable Development and the Green Olympics", conference of the United Nations international network of NGOs (Beijing). Representatives of the Association provided photos of the Association's work in promoting sustainable development and "green" Olympics; (c) Twenty-third Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) General Assembly (Geneva). Representatives of the Association made remarks on the Association's work at a lunch side meeting and introduced situations about China and the Beijing Olympics; (d) seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government (Vienna); (e) United Nations Public Service Day conference and anniversary activities (New York, 2006); (f) United Nations-NGO Informal Regional Network in the Asia and Pacific Region launch meeting (Beijing), sponsored jointly by the members and organizations of the China Non-Governmental Organization Network for International Exchanges and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; (g) conference held by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and United Cities and Local Governments (Spain, 2005); Association representatives joined the United Cities and Local Governments delegation to visit United Nations Headquarters in New York; and (h) holding a ringing of the Peace Bell ceremony in commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

3. International Road Transport Union (Special; 1949)

Introduction

Objective, geographical extension, priorities: the objective of the International Road Transport Union is to contribute, in the interest of society as a whole, to the development and prosperity, in all countries, of domestic and international road transport and to safeguard the role of road transport for hire and reward and on a person's own account. Since 2004, the Union has admitted new members from Egypt, India, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Pakistan and Turkey. As at 31 December

2008, the Union had 178 members in 74 countries. The Union's priorities are the facilitation of road transport, trade, tourism and sustainable development.

Cooperation with the United Nations: facilitation of road transport, trade and tourism.

The Union actively participated in the meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Inland Transport Committee, its Working Party on Road Transport and Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP.30), all of which deal specifically and concretely with the facilitation of international road transport. The main questions addressed by the Union through written and oral contributions included:

Facilitation of international road transport: (a) submission of proposals on the facilitation of border crossings in Central and Eastern Europe, the aim of which is to reduce border waiting times, increase road transport security and reduce the number of attacks on international drivers and the theft of vehicles and cargo; (b) submission of various proposals on the mitigation of the visa problem for professional drivers employed in international road transport; (c) invitation to Governments to implement as soon as possible the new annex 8 on the facilitation of border crossing by road of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982), as initiated by the International Road Transport Union; (d) support for proposals to reinforce the freedom of transit of road transport vehicles, drivers and cargo in accordance with article V of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; (e) active contribution to debates on enhancing supply chain security, in particular using the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets to implement the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards, including "authorized economic operator" status; (f) submission of the road transport industry's views on fiscal measures affecting road transport; and (g) submission of a draft global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBus).

United Nations agreements and conventions: (a) promotion of the adoption and practical implementation of United Nations multilateral legal instruments on road transport in South America, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia, including China; (b) participation in the adoption of the Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road and the promotion of its practical implementation; and (c) support, in the form of proposals and the organization of special expert meetings in parallel with official United Nations events, for the harmonization of provisions of the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport with those of European Union legislation. Proposed and worked in cooperation with members of the International Road Transport Union on the modalities of introducing the digital tachograph in all States party to the European Agreement according to the deadline fixed.

Assistance to countries in transition and developing countries: (a) organization of a number of truck caravans from Asia to Europe, the most recent being prepared in cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the introduction of a business project, the New Euro-Asian Land Transport Initiative, regularizing local, regional and transcontinental road freight transport along the Silk Road (see also "road safety" below); (b) contributed to the

further development of international road transport by the permanent delegation and Liaison Committee of the International Road Transport Union to the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow; (c) creation of a new permanent delegation to the Middle East region in Istanbul; (d) supported the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Union of Road Transport Associations; (e) organized numerous seminars, conferences and congresses on the contribution of road transport to sustainable development and the creation and distribution of wealth in the world, in close cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions; and (f) continued constructive cooperation with the secretariats of the United Nations regional commissions for Western Asia and Asia and the Pacific as one of the partner agencies in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action developed under the auspices of the Office of the High Representative for Landlocked and Least Developed Countries and approved by the General Assembly.

Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention): (a) organized and ensured the efficient functioning of the TIR international guarantee chain established by the TIR Convention; (b) played a major role in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport, the TIR Administrative Committee and the TIR Executive Board through contributions, reports and proposals aimed at improving the functioning and ensuring the sustainability of the TIR system; (c) developed and participated in the implementation of an international risk management system for TIR carnets (SafeTIR), set up in accordance with annex 10 of the TIR Convention, which entered into force on 12 August 2006, replacing the recommendation adopted on 20 October 1995. The risk management system is composed of an international computerized network linking 56 customs administrations, national transport associations and the International Road Transport Union. Despite the obvious benefits of the system for both customs administrations and the private sector, after more than 10 years only 50 per cent of the termination data is transmitted in less than 24 hours; (d) worked towards the computerization of TIR procedures, to the benefit of customs administrations, transport and trade. The Union developed a web-based application which allows TIR carnet-holders to submit their TIR electronic pre-declarations to customs administrations. By 1 January 2009, the date on which the electronic pre-declarations became mandatory in the European Union, the International Road Transport Union application was operational in five contracting parties. It is hoped that the Economic Commission for Europe will encourage its implementation in all TIR contracting parties; and (e) annual transfer of funds to cover the budget of the TIR Executive Board and the TIR secretariat, as the Union has done since their creation.

Cooperation with the United Nations: sustainable development

Economic development: The Union participated in the work of the Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics, highlighting on various occasions that the internalization of transport's external costs required sound cost-benefit analyses and that ensuring economic growth would require that charging be applied to all transport modes and that revenues from road charging be earmarked for the road transport sector.

Road safety: (a) further to the General Assembly resolution on road safety, the Union participated in meetings of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and

confirmed the road transport sector's commitment to helping improve road safety; (b) the Union followed the work of the Economic Commission for Europe Working Party on Road Traffic Safety, putting special focus on the results and recommendations of a scientific study on European truck accident causation, jointly commissioned by the European Commission and the International Road Transport Union; and (c) the Union's proposal to organize a road safety truck caravan from Abu Dhabi to Istanbul in 2009 was welcomed by representatives of international organizations and Governments attending the joint Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia-Global Road Safety Partnership workshop on building the Arab Mashreq road safety partnership, held in Doha in October 2008.

International carriage of dangerous goods by road: (a) contributed to the Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and joint meetings on Regulations Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail, the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways; (b) organized a special working group, comprising representatives from contracting parties and industry, to harmonize chapter 5.4.3 of the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road. The aim was to simplify the written instructions into one single drivers' instruction on the measures to be taken in case of accident or emergency. By the end of 2008, these had been translated into 27 languages; (c) the Union, together with the Portuguese delegation, launched a project for the harmonization of the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road certificate — chapter 8.2; (d) followed the work of the Economic Commission for Europe informal telematics working group, which was set up to consider the possible use of "intelligent transport systems" to enhance the provisions for the carriage of dangerous goods; and (e) supported the initiative to facilitate transit through tunnels according to classes and to assess more precisely the problems raised by the industry regarding the efforts made in recent years to harmonize all major international instruments.

Combined transport: The Union continued to participate in meetings of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics and also collaborated closely with the Group of Experts on Hinterland Connections of Seaports, recommending the use of the modular concept, coupled with real business incentives, to make combined transport environmentally and economically viable.

Construction of vehicles: The Union continued its active participation in the meetings of the Working Parties on General Safety Provisions, Lighting and Light-Signalling and Brake and Running Gear, and in an informal working group set up by the Working Party on Brake and Running Gear to focus on the development of technical specifications for autonomous emergency-braking and lane-departure warning systems.

4. MiRA Resource Centre for Black, Immigrant and Refugee Women (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The aim of the organization MiRA Centre is to promote equality for black, immigrant and refugee women in Norway. The Centre tries to increase awareness about the specific conditions that often determine the quality of life of minority women. Through well-established legal and social services, information and networking, the MiRA Centre tries to strengthen the position of minority women in Norwegian society. MiRA is a place for self-organization. Through the active participation of minority women themselves, the Centre has created a space where people can define their own realities and name their own problems and strengths.

Activities the MiRA Centre offers: (a) legal assistance in various crisis situations — the MiRA Centre gives assistance on legal and social matters to immigrant and refugee women and young girls with minority backgrounds. These matters may include economic or marital problems; questions of immigration, family reunification and deportation; and conflict within the family. MiRA has a close cooperation with the crisis centres in Norway and with other institutions to protect minority women's human rights; (b) networking: the MiRA Resource Centre is the only networking organization for minority women at the national and Nordic level. The Centre frequently arranges seminars and conferences for minority women and young girls, where they can discuss the issues related to their socio-economic, political and cultural situation. The members of the network regularly receive information about various activities at the Centre, and the women from the network actively participate in the development and formation of these activities. The network is the driving force behind all policymaking and political intervention in the public debate by the MiRA Centre; (c) youth activities: the MiRA Centre is a meeting place for young girls with minority backgrounds. The young girls have their own activity groups and a debate and chat room on the Internet. The MiRA Centre also has a broader network within the schools, and our school campaign is very successful. Advisers from the MiRA Centre give assistance to school authorities, young girls and their parents on various matters of generational conflict and intercultural communication. The Centre provides a special course package for teachers in order to increase their competence in multicultural and multilingual education; (d) self-development courses: the MiRA Centre arranges courses for minority women in order to improve their self-image and to empower them to resolve their own problems. During these courses, the women learn to mobilize their own inner resources in order to improve their life conditions; (e) counselling for psychological and emotional distress: migration to a new country involves many new adjustments. Leaving family and friends and coming to a new environment where one might not know many people can create a feeling of loneliness. Until one learns the new language to communicate with the people in that environment, one might also feel isolation. Such difficult life situations could be the breeding ground for many psychological and emotional problems. It is important to seek help in such situations. The MiRA Centre provides professional counselling for minority women in such life crises; (f) information, publications and audio-visual productions: information is essential to create solid two-way communication and mutual understanding of cultures and society. Information is also important to develop an

insight into what it means to live in a multicultural society and to learn to respect the differences that exist or arise. The MiRA Resource Centre offers numerous activities and has a large information network, both for minority women and for Norwegians who work with the issues of integration and minorities. The Centre publishes a magazine and various independent publications, which highlight the situation of minority women and young girls. It aims to build a library with documentation of audio-visual and written material for research and information purposes. In addition, the women from the MiRA Centre hold lectures and offer courses to interested institutions, organizations and others on various issues, such as arranged and forced marriages, female genital mutilation, minority women and immigration legislation, minority women in the media, violence against women and minority women in the labour market.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

2005: (a) Beijing + 10 Conference: forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Headquarters, New York; and (b) Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination — 66th session, Geneva.

2006: (a) high-level dialogue on international migration and development, United Nations Headquarters, New York; and (b) informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector on international migration and development, United Nations Headquarters.

2007: (a) the International Women's Summit on Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS, Nairobi — representatives attended meetings that related to the health and status of women; and (b) the spring 2007 conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Oslo.

2008: fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The MiRA Centre attended and contributed both orally and in writing on the subject of financing for gender equality.

5. Susila Dharma International Association (Special; 1989)

I. Aims and purposes of the organization

Susila Dharma International Association is a non-profit organization in continuous operation since 1969 and is registered as a charity in the United States of America. The Association is a global, member-based network made up of 70 national Susila Dharma organizations and humanitarian projects in Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Suriname, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Viet Nam and Zambia, among others. The goals of the network are to relieve human suffering and promote just and

sustainable development through partnerships and support for grass-roots, participatory development and humanitarian initiatives, empowering individuals and communities to engage in positive human, social and economic change and raising awareness of global issues and interdependence.

Activities of the organization during the reporting period 2005-2008: the Association acted as the secretariat to our international network. The office worked to strengthen the capacity of our members, local organizations, development professionals and volunteers. The Association facilitated shared learning between member organizations and interested individuals by maintaining its website; publishing monthly electronic news with regular reporting from the Association's United Nations representatives in English, French and Spanish; organizing, training and networking events; carrying out research that highlighted good practices; and publishing that research for our members. The Association identified and coordinated human, technical and financial resources to assist members and their communities.

II. Contribution of the Association to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005: (a) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva and New York); (b) NGO Committee on the Status of Women (New York); (c) NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security (New York); and (d) NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (New York).

2006: (a) briefing on the work of A. K. Chowdhury, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (Vienna); (b) conference by La fédération des agences internationales pour le développement on the Millennium Development Goals (Geneva); and (c) United Nations AIDS conference (New York).

2007: (a) fourth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (b) fifth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (c) CONGO Civil Society Forum (Geneva); and (d) CONGO General Assembly (Geneva).

2008: (a) seventh session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (b) Department of Public Information-NGO Conference (UNESCO, Paris); (c) ninth session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva); (d) conference on rebuilding Sustainable Communities for Children and their Families after Disasters (University of Massachusetts, Boston, United States); (e) European conference on rights equality in cultural diversity, by La fédération des agences internationales pour le développement (Paris); and (f) participated regularly in the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

III. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies

The Association participated in the NGO Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in New York and CONGO in Geneva. Association members have established cooperation with the following specialized agencies: (a) Complexe Scolaire Susila Dharma Lemba Imbu (Democratic Republic of the Congo): member of Club UNESCO; (b) International Child Development Programme (Norway): cooperates with UNICEF and the World Health Organization in Argentina, Colombia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and

Central America; (c) Mithra Foundation (India): implements human rights education in local schools in Karnataka state; (d) Tierraviva (Argentina): presented at a UNICEF conference on the rights of pregnant women and women with young children in detention in Buenos Aires; (e) Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (Indonesia): cooperated with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to pilot the Global Mercury Project; (f) Schools without Violence (Serbia): worked with UNICEF to reduce violence among children; (g) Susila Dharma Indonesia, in conjunction with Yayasan Usaha Mulia: worked for post-tsunami recovery in Aceh and Java in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Yayasan Usaha Mulia is registered with the United Nations Development Programme-Indonesia, with a view to cooperating in the future).

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals

Public education: (a) human rights education workshops were developed and presented by the project leaders of the Mithra Foundation (Bangalore, India) in Innsbruck, Austria, in July 2005; (b) South Indian regional consultative meeting on the Millennium Development Goals organized by the Mithra Foundation in Bangalore, India, on 30 March 2006; and (c) reports by the Association on United Nations issues and activities were distributed to Association members and made available to the public.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Association member projects used a variety of approaches to combat extreme hunger and poverty, including school feeding programmes for children whose families could not afford to feed them, the introduction of new organic agriculture techniques to reduce the dependency of farmers on costly agricultural inputs and increase income and food production by poor farmers, and women's microcredit programmes to increase family income.

Association member projects: Anisha Foundation (India), El Refugio (Colombia), Mithra Foundation (India), Susila Dharma Indonesia, SINTRAL (Ecuador), Society for Rural Advancement and Democratic Humanitarian Action (SRADHA) (India), and SUN for LIFE (Madagascar).

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education. In Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and other countries, Association members include 18 schools, tutoring and reading programmes, and scholarship programmes to improve access to primary school, attendance and completion rates. Active members: Albadi School and Orphanage (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Anisha Foundation (India), Bina Cita Utama School (Indonesia), Centre for Culture and Development (India), Children's Vision (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)), Complexe scolaire inkisi (Democratic Republic of the Congo), École nkembo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Entrelazos (Argentina), Fundación Amanecer (Colombia), Fundación Educativa Amor (Colombia), Fundación Despertar (Argentina), Groupe scolaire Lemba Imbu (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Inka Samana School (Ecuador), Lewes New School (United Kingdom), Mithra Foundation (India), Quest Fund (United States/Zambia), Roda Viva Community Project (Portugal) and Vida Plena (Paraguay).

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Eight members worked with education and awareness, women's groups and microcredit programmes to

empower and include women in access to resources and decision-making. Active members: Anisha (India), Mithra Foundation (India), Puppeteers without Borders (France), Tierraviva (Argentina), Susila Dharma Indonesia, SRADHA (India), Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (Indonesia) and Yayasan Usaha Mulia (Indonesia).

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality. Goal 5: Improve maternal health. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Seven members provided basic prenatal, post-natal and maternal health care, malaria prevention and treatment, HIV/AIDS awareness programmes and childhood vaccinations. Yenge Clinic in Kinshasa was accepted as a pilot community health centre as part of the World Bank health reform project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The clinic is responsible for vaccinating all children and distributing mosquito nets to all households in an area of 19,063 inhabitants. Active members: (a) Asociación Vivir (Ecuador), (b) Clear Path International, (c) Quest Center for Integrative Health (United States), (d) Elegance Medical Centre and École médicale de Kimpemba, (e) Polyclinique Nandora-Vunguta, (f) Yenge Health Centre (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and (g) Usaha Mulia Abadi (Mexico).

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. Nine Association members worked to protect the environment through promoting sustainable agriculture that lowers costs for farmers and reduces the negative impact of chemicals on humans and the environment, creating green spaces and raising awareness of their importance among children and communities and reducing dependence on inefficient wood-burning and other damaging practices. Active members: A Child's Garden of Peace (Brazil), Altai Conservancy (United States and Russian Federation), Anisha Foundation-Rural (India), Mithra Foundation (India), SINTRAL (Ecuador), SRADHA (India), SUN for LIFE (Madagascar), Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (Indonesia) and Usaha Mulia Abadi (Mexico).

The following Association member projects worked for the protection of internationally recognized human rights in other areas, especially the rights of the child: International Child Development Programme (Norway), My Neighborhood International (United States), Mithra Foundation (India), Puppeteers without Borders (France), Roda Viva Community Project (Portugal), Schools without Violence (Kosovo) and Tierraviva (Argentina).

6. Unión de Asociaciones Familiares (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization: The Unión de Asociaciones Familiares (UNAF) is a Spanish national, secular and non-governmental organization established in 1989. UNAF represents 25 national organizations whose primary mission is to work for improving the quality of life of different kinds of families in the society. The specific objective of UNAF is to defend the interests and rights of these families and to express their principal concerns before national and local institutions and forums, thereby stimulating positive changes in family policies. The organization pays special attention to the most vulnerable families. UNAF is a member of the World Family Organization, the European Coordination for Foreigners' Right to Family Lives, the European Forum for Training and Research in Family Mediation, the National Family Council (a Spanish State institution) and

the National Committee of NGOs. Since its foundation and as a pioneer in this field, UNAF has offered several services and training courses on family mediation to families, schools and organizations. Each year UNAF organizes or supports a large variety of national events, including conferences and workshops, on family issues in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of family diversity, dynamics and development.

Significant changes in the organization: change in Constitution — in the past four years, UNAF's structure for decision-making and finance has been unchanged; however, while the organization's aims and purposes remained the same, several articles of its constitution were modified. Those articles were approved by UNAF's general assembly and by the legal authorities on 5 May 2005. The main reason for these changes was to extend the coverage of the organization's activities; these changes have allowed UNAF to work and cooperate in fields like environmental sustainability, families of immigrants, harmonization of work, family and personal life and families with disabled members. Thus, its role in family forums and institutions has been strengthened. During these years, the number of member organizations of UNAF has increased from 21 to 25, and the organization expects to add more in subsequent years.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization did not participate directly in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development of education and policy programmes on family mediation and other family issues, collaborating mainly with its members from all over the country and with governmental and local institutions. UNAF representatives have attended several World Family Organization meetings, however, during the period under survey, UNAF continued to strengthen its cooperation with this body, with initiatives like the organization of international and national events with the participation and cooperation of UNAF members.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. UNAF has organized conferences on family and migration (international), single-parent families (national) and family diversity and the challenges of equality. The organization has launched and is now running programmes on family mediation services and on conflict resolution among parents, children and schools. UNAF has published a book concerning the development of family mediation in Spain. **Goal 5: Improve maternal health.** UNAF organized conferences on families as agents of health and social welfare (international) and the consequences of violence on the health of families (national). UNAF has launched and is now running programmes on sexuality and health. It has also published a guide on sexual orientation for immigrants. **Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability.** Besides the publication of a guide and a website called "Guardian of Climate" for making students and teachers aware of the negative consequences of climate change, in 2008 UNAF took part in the universal exhibition that was held in Zaragoza, Spain to promote environmental sustainability.